

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Imtec Corporation

Oklahoma Alliance for Manufacturing Excellence

A Small Part Generates Big Changes At Imtec Corporation

Client Profile:

IMTEC Corporation, located in Ardmore, Oklahoma, manufactures precision dental specialty products, including a high-tech mini implant. The company was founded in 1991 and currently employs 65 people.

Situation:

When IMTEC Corporation began production of a new, high-tech mini dental implant (MDI) a few years ago, business accelerated to a level that threatened to swamp the company. IMTEC needed to develop a strategy to keep its production and profits growing in a controlled environment, and called in the Oklahoma Alliance for Manufacturing Excellence (The Alliance), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for assistance.

Solution:

The Alliance recommended that IMTEC take a few big steps to address the problem of too much business in too little space. The first big step was the purchase of a new building that consolidated manufacturing, distribution, marketing, and administrative operations under one roof. Two years ago, the company moved into the facility. However, escalating business made more space necessary. IMTEC and The Alliance are now working with the Ardmore Development Authority and Ardmore Chamber of Commerce to secure a Community Development Block Grant to help fund an expansion, which will provide 25 percent more space.

After moving into a larger facility, IMTEC embraced The Alliance's suggestion of applying lean concepts that streamline the manufacturing process. Working with Southern Oklahoma Technology Center and using Existing Industry Grant funds, The Alliance coordinated lean training for IMTEC.

With its new knowledge of lean concepts, IMTEC found that it could reduce three or four weeks of excess inventory to just what is needed to fill specific orders. Employees worked to eliminate bottlenecks and unnecessary paperwork that slowed processes.

Working with the Training Alliance of Southern Oklahoma and Southern Oklahoma Technology Center, The Alliance coordinated instruction needed to teach employees how to operate IMTEC's CNC machines. To help sustain the complex CNC equipment, The Alliance is working with IMTEC to develop an industrial maintenance position. IMTEC also recently purchased a laser engraving machine to etch its logo and serial numbers into the tiny MDI pieces, a function previously performed by a third-party that slowed the manufacturing process.

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The Alliance helped develop the specifications required for the etching machine.
Finally, The Alliance helped IMTEC prepare for and achieve ISO 9000 certification.

Results:

- Consolidated business activities into one facility.
- Expanding manufacturing facility to increase capacity by 25 percent.
- Eliminated excess inventory.
- Increased production.
- Eliminated paperwork bottlenecks.
- Improved industrial maintenance.
- Made significant capital investment.
- Achieved ISO 9000 certification.

Testimonial:

"The Oklahoma Alliance for Manufacturing Excellence is always quick to respond and listen to our needs. They may not always have an immediate solution, but we are always presented with ideas and opportunities."

Stephen Hadwin, Senior Vice President of Manufacturing